

Community cultivates native habitats for pollinators, birds

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – In neighborhoods across South Hadley, native flowers are beginning to bloom, pollinator gardens are expanding, and residents are learning that even small patches of land can make a meaningful environmental impact. At the center of that effort is Growing Wild South Hadley, a volunteer-driven group working to restore native habitats one yard, garden, and public space at a time.

Part of the statewide Growing Wild Massachusetts initiative through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the local chapter encourages res-

idents to plant native species that support birds, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife.

“Growing Wild South Hadley is composed of community volunteers and members of the conservation commission who want to grow native plants in our yards and around town,” volunteer Genevieve Van de Merghel said.

The group’s work stretches beyond simple beautification. Native plants are essential to the survival of many pollinators and birds whose life cycles depend on them. Van de Merghel pointed to monarch butterflies as one example.

“Without native milkweed, monarch butterflies cannot breed,” she said. “Their caterpillars can only

eat milkweeds to survive.”

The same ecological relationship exists throughout nature. Many pollinators rely on specific native plants, and birds rely on those insects for food. According to Van de Merghel, a single brood of chickadees requires between 6,000 and 9,000 caterpillars to mature.

“Plants that support pollinators feed our birds, too,” she said.

To help residents participate, the group hosts educational talks at the Gaylord Memorial Library and organizes seasonal native plant giveaways and bulk purchases. One of the group’s most popular partnerships is with New England Wetland Plants, a wholesale na-

tive plant grower based in town. By purchasing in bulk, Growing Wild South Hadley is able to offer residents flats of native plants at wholesale prices.

The organization also maintains a growing list of native plant nurseries and gardening resources on the town website, helping homeowners navigate the often-overwhelming process of transitioning to native landscaping.

While many of the pollinator gardens are located on private residential properties, the group has also taken on public projects that serve as demonstrations for the broader community. Through a grant from the Hampden-Hampshire Conservation

District, volunteers established a pollinator garden outside the Gaylord Library.

“This garden is maintained by volunteers and is meant to be a demonstration garden of how even a small space can be beautiful and make such a difference,” Van de Merghel said.

Another project, a native bioswale planted near the River to Range Trail, combines stormwater management with habitat restoration. The drainage channel now supports butterflies and beneficial pollinators while helping direct runoff away from the trail and parking areas.

Community involvement remains central to the organization’s mission. Residents can participate through

plant swaps, volunteer garden maintenance, or monthly Zoom meetings featuring guest speakers and updates on local projects.

Looking toward the future, the group hopes its efforts will create something even larger: a connected corridor of habitat running through South Hadley that can sustain migrating birds and pollinators for generations to come.

“We would love to establish a corridor for migrating birds and pollinators to travel through South Hadley,” Van de Merghel said, “with plenty of delicious food and resources to help them on their journey or to make South Hadley their summer home to raise their families.”

Patriotic music program set for June 7

PALMER – The Fanfare Brass presents a Patriotic music program celebrating the 250th founding of our country on Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul Church located at 1060 Central Street in Palmer, Mass.

The program starts 1768 to current songs and we speak a little about the history of each song. A program/song sheet will be

passed out for those who would like to sing along.

Program songs include: The Liberty Song, God Save Good Washington, The Girl I Left Behind, My Country Tis of Thee, British Grenadiers, Chester, Yankee Doodle, Shenandoah, The Star Spangled Banner, Columbia, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Battle Cry of Freedom, Dixie, Cruel War in Over, When Johnny Comes

Marching Home, Eternal Father, America the Beautiful, Stars and Stripes, You’re A Grand Old Flag, God Bless America, It’s A Long Way to Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles, Armes Forces Themes, Hail to the Chief, God Bless the USA.

For more information contact David Neill at 413-686-5027 or email tbn8@aol.com.

Cookbook Club at WPL

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m.

This month’s selection is “Amrikan: 125 Recipes from the Indian American Diaspora” by Khushbu Shah.

Please let the library know what you’re bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

LEGALS

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL PERMIT HOME OCCUPATION

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Select Board’s Conference Room on **Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** on the application of Camron Moreau of 34 Grant Avenue, Ludlow, MA (Assessors’ Map 12B, Parcel 35) for: **home office for HVAC business.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Raymond Phoenix, Chairman
05/20, 05/27/2026

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL PERMIT HOME OCCUPATION

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Select Board’s Conference Room on **Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 7:10 p.m.** on the application of Richard Yelinek of 50 Stevens Terrace, Ludlow, MA (Assessors’ Map 15B, Parcel 141) for: **home office for limousine business.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Raymond Phoenix, Chairman
05/27, 06/03/2026

CLASSROOM

HCC honors students for 2025-2026 achievements

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to celebrate the students who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2025-2026 academic year. Awardees were honored

Wednesday, May 20, during a ceremony in the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Below is a list of HCC honorees and award recipients for the 2025-2026 academic year. Some students

received multiple awards.

A full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found at hcc.edu/awards-2026

HCC Honors & Awards for 2025-2026: Ludlow: Sarah Kites.

Church DIRECTORY

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
Sunday services
Sacrament Meeting 10-11 A.M.
Sunday school for adults,
Young single adults(18-30) and teens (11-18)
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon
Classes for Young Men(11-18)
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Classes for Young Women (11-18)
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon
Children’s classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11- 12 noon
Nursery provided for ages 18 month- 3 yr

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95 Berkshire Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
413-543-4204
Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors
Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.
Worship in person, 11 a.m.
Or watch our livestream.
See our website for more information:
orchardcovenant.org.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH
438 Winsor St., Ludlow
413-583-2312
Father Pedro DeOlivera
Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses – 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)
Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses – 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)
Tuesday and Friday Masses – 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)
First Saturday of the Month – 8:30 a.m.
For more information, visit ourladyoffatimaparish.org.

STS. PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
45 Newbury St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
Phone: 413-583-2140
Pastor: Father Andriy Krip
Liturgy schedule:
Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH
191 Hubbard St., Ludlow
413-583-3467
Pastor – Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselein
In Residence – Rev. Norman Bolton
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Keith Davies
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Visit our website at www.stelizabethludlow.org
Like us on Facebook Check out our Parish App
Wed., May 27, – Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C), Holy Mother Choir – 4:30 PM (C), Bible Study – 6:30 PM (JR)
Thurs., May 28, – Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C)
Fri., May 29, – Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C)
Sat., May 30, - Confessions – 2:30PM (C), Saturday Vigil Mass – 4:00 PM (C)
Sun., May 31, – Sunday Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM (C), Lifeteen, - 6:00 PM (JR)
Mon., June 1, - Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C)
Tues., June 2, – Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C), Middle School Youth Ministry – 3:30 PM (JR), St. Rita Choir – 4:00 (C),Pasta Committee Meeting - 6:00 PM (ZR), Bereavement Support Group – 6:30 PM (ER), Parish Eucharistic revival Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM (JR)

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
A Church of the Nazarene
485 East Street, Ludlow
(413) 583-7875
Email: FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com
Lead Pastor: Rev. Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Sunday Morning Discipleship Groups meet at 9:45am
Worship service meets at 11am
OTHER MEETINGS
Tuesdays: Zoom Bible Study 7pm
Fridays: After School Club for Children 5pm
AA Group 7pm



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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

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